

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21. Please cancel Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 24 without prejudice. Please add Claims 25-32. All presently pending claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) An anatomical brace for stabilizing and supporting a uniting pivoting joint situated between a first limb structure and a second limb structure of a living being, the brace comprising:

a) a first cuff partially encompassable about the first limb structure and a second cuff partially encompassable about the second limb structure; and

b) a pivotable brace joint connecting the first and second cuffs, said brace joint comprising two opposing pivoting assemblies each on one side of the uniting pivoting joint, with each said assembly comprising:

i) a forward arm member and a rearward arm member in tandem relationship with the forward arm member;

ii) ~~a frame structure having a first end~~ an upper housing attached to the first cuff and a ~~second end~~ lower housing attached to the second cuff; and

iii) a joint extension limiter, wherein the joint extension limiter is a cable assembly comprising a cable extending from the rearward arm member to the first cuff, the cable assembly including a cable length adjuster for regulating pivotable distance of the first and second cuffs in relation to each other.

2. (Original) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 1 wherein the joint extension limiter includes a pivotable distance adjuster.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) An anatomical brace for stabilizing and supporting a uniting pivoting joint situated between a first limb structure and a second limb structure of a living being, the brace comprising:

a) a first cuff partially encompassable about the first limb structure and a second cuff partially encompassable about the second limb structure; and

b) a pivotable brace joint connecting the first and second cuffs, said brace joint comprising two opposing pivoting assemblies each on one side of the uniting pivoting joint, with each said assembly comprising:

i) a forward arm member having a generally perpendicularly angled first end and a generally perpendicularly angled second end, and a rearward arm

member in tandem relationship with the forward arm member, and having a generally perpendicularly angled first end and a generally perpendicularly angled second end;

ii) ~~a frame structure having a first end~~ an upper housing attached to the first cuff and a ~~second end~~ lower housing attached to the second cuff, said ~~frame structure~~ upper and lower housings having four generally spherical and movably positioned sockets ~~movably positioned within the frame structure~~ such that each spherical socket accommodates one respective perpendicular end of each respective arm member for multi-planar movement between said first and second cuffs; and

iii) a joint extension limiter, wherein the joint extension limiter is a cable assembly comprising a cable extending from the rearward arm member to the first cuff, the cable assembly including a cable length adjuster for ~~regulating~~ determining pivotable distance of the first and second cuffs in relation to each other.

6. (Original) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 5 wherein the joint extension limiter includes a pivotable distance adjuster.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) An anatomical brace for stabilizing and supporting a uniting pivoting joint situated between a first limb structure and a second limb structure of a living being, the brace comprising:

a) a first cuff partially encompassable about the first limb structure and a second cuff partially encompassable about the second limb structure;

b) a respective cuff retainer for securing each cuff on each respective limb, each said retainer comprising at least one externally accessible releasable connector for attaching and releasing the respective cuff to and from the respective limb structure; and

c) a pivotable brace joint connecting the first and second cuffs, said brace joint comprising two opposing pivoting assemblies each on one side of the uniting pivoting joint, with each said assembly comprising:

i) a forward arm member and a rearward arm member in tandem relationship with the forward arm member,

ii) ~~a frame structure having a first end~~ an upper housing attached to the first cuff and a ~~second end~~ lower housing attached to the second cuff; and

iii) a joint extension limiter, wherein the joint extension limiter is a cable assembly comprising a cable extending from the rearward arm member to the

first cuff, the cable assembly including a cable length adjuster for regulating pivotable distance of the first and second cuffs in relation to each other.

10. (Original) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 9 wherein the joint extension limiter includes a pivotable distance adjuster.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

a. 13. (Original) An anatomical brace for stabilizing and supporting a uniting pivoting joint situated between a first limb structure and a second limb structure of a living being, the brace comprising:

a) a first cuff partially encompassable about the first limb structure and a second cuff partially encompassable about the second limb structure;

b) a respective cuff retainer for securing each cuff on each respective limb, each said retainer comprising at least one externally accessible releasable connector for attaching and releasing the respective cuff to and from the respective limb structure; and

c) a pivotable brace joint connecting the first and second cuffs, said brace joint comprising two opposing pivoting assemblies each on one side of the uniting pivoting joint, with each said assembly comprising:

i) a forward arm member having a generally perpendicularly angled first end and a generally perpendicularly angled second end, and a rearward arm member in tandem relationship with the forward arm member and having a generally perpendicularly angled first end and a generally perpendicularly angled second end;

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ii) ~~a frame structure having a first end~~ an upper housing attached to the first cuff and a ~~second end~~ lower housing attached to the second cuff, said ~~frame structure~~ upper and lower housings having four generally spherical and movably positioned sockets ~~movably positioned within the frame structure~~ such that each spherical socket accommodates one respective perpendicular end of each respective arm member for multi-planar movement between said first and second cuff; and

iii) a joint extension limiter, wherein the joint extension limiter is a cable assembly comprising a cable extending from the rearward arm member to the first cuff, the cable assembly including a cable length adjuster for regulating pivotable distance of the first and second cuffs in relation to each other.

14. (Original) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 13 wherein the joint extension limiter includes a pivotable distance adjuster.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) An anatomical brace for stabilizing and supporting a uniting pivoting joint situated between a first limb structure and a second limb structure of a living being, the brace comprising:

a) a first cuff partially encompassable about the first limb structure and a second cuff partially encompassable about the second limb structure;

b) at least one tensioning shaft member integral with each cuff; and

c) a pivotable brace joint connecting the first and second cuffs, said brace joint comprising two opposing pivoting assemblies each on one side of the uniting pivoting joint, with each said assembly comprising:

i) a forward arm member and a rearward arm member in tandem relationship with the forward arm member;

ii) ~~a frame structure having a first end~~ an upper housing attached to the first cuff and a ~~second end~~ lower housing attached to the second cuff; and

iii) a joint extension limiter, wherein the joint extension limiter is a cable assembly comprising a

cable extending from the rearward arm member to the first cuff, the cable assembly including a cable length adjuster for regulating pivotable distance of the first and second cuffs in relation to each other.

18. (Original) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 17 wherein the joint extension limiter includes a pivotable distance adjuster.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) An anatomical brace for stabilizing and supporting a uniting pivoting joint situated between a first limb structure and a second limb structure of a living being, the brace comprising:

a) a first cuff partially encompassable about the first limb structure and a second cuff partially encompassable about the second limb structure;

b) at least one tensioning shaft member integral with each cuff; and

c) a pivotable brace joint connecting the first and second cuffs, said brace joint comprising two opposing pivoting assemblies each on one side of the uniting pivoting joint, with each said assembly comprising:

i) a forward arm member having a generally perpendicularly angled first end and a generally perpendicularly angled second end, and a rearward arm

member in tandem relationship with the forward arm member and having a generally perpendicularly angled first end and a generally perpendicularly angled second end;

ii) ~~a frame structure having a first end~~ an upper housing attached to the first cuff and a ~~second end~~ lower housing attached to the second cuff, said ~~frame structure~~ upper and lower housings having four generally spherical and movably positioned sockets ~~movably positioned within the frame structure~~ such that each spherical socket accommodates one respective perpendicular end of each respective arm member for multi-planar movement between said first and second cuff; and

iii) a joint extension limiter, wherein the joint extension limiter is a cable assembly comprising a cable extending from the rearward arm member to the first cuff, the cable assembly including a cable length adjuster for regulating pivotable distance of the first and second cuffs in relation to each other.

22. (Original) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 21 wherein the joint extension limiter includes a pivotable distance adjuster.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (New) An anatomical brace for stabilizing and supporting a uniting pivoting joint situated between first and second limb structures of a living being, the brace comprising:

- a) first and second cuffs encompassable about the first and second limb structures, respectively; and
- b) a brace joint connecting the first and second cuffs and having two opposing assemblies each on one side of the uniting pivoting joint, with each said assembly comprising:

- i) forward and rearward arm members;
- ii) upper and lower housings attached to the first and second cuffs, respectively; and
- iii) a cable assembly comprising a cable extending from the rearward arm member to the first cuff, the cable assembly including a cable length adjuster for regulating pivotable distance of the first and second cuffs in relation to each other.

26. (New) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 25 wherein the first and second cuffs are partially encompassable about the first and second limb structures, respectively.

27. (New) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 25 wherein the brace joint is a pivotable brace joint.

28. (New) An anatomical brace as claimed in claim 25 wherein the rearward arm member is in tandem relationship with the forward arm member.